

REMARKS

In the pending final Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Dempo (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,267) in view of Okabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,838). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. To establish prima facie obviousness, the references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. Claim 1 recites "limiting the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits from among VPI/VCI bits transmitted in a header of ATM cells to be interpreted according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists." Although Okabe discloses limiting the number of bits representing VPI/VCI bits, it does so without basis in order to concentrate the ATM header to save bandwidth. What Okabe does not show is limiting the number of VPI/VCI bits "according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists."

Okabe does use an address translator scheme, whereby the VPI/VCI address is converted into an address having fewer bits and is then translated at the receiving end using a table (column 9, lines 28-43). However, this is not the same as the claimed invention. For example, Okabe would process an address having no corresponding connection in the system, whereas the claimed invention limits the number of bits according to a number of ATM connections available for processing as indicated in said AAL2 routing lists.

Thus, the references do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned limitation of claim 1 and obviousness has not been established. The rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reason.

In view of the above, the pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would

expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 449122029900.

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Respectfully submitted,

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